

body of case law that has grown up in this area we are apt to do very serious damage if we let this bill go through without dealing with this issue and trying to educate Members with this issue.

The problem that I have is I am not on the committee so I do not know how I get recognized. There is a whole hour and 45 minutes left with any number of Members on the committee that have not even had their amendments recognized. And when the hour and 45 minutes goes, boom, the hammer comes down, that is it, vote on the bill, it is out of here.

I just am very, very shocked that we have so soon forgotten our pledge to have open rules, and I think in the area of foreign affairs we have had open rules every time I remember. I know the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] has a very critical amendment that he would like to offer that is on the front pages of every newspaper. I probably disagree with him on how I would vote, but I think he has the right to offer it, and I just find it very surprising that we are not going to permit that, and in an hour and 45 minutes tomorrow that is it, we are done.

Maybe on this globe we may have all sorts of global issues discussion, there may be all sorts of different things that were not dealt with; they fall off the table and we adjourn.

I just think the American people should be more than aware that there is a lot of talk about open rules, but I have not seen one in a long time.

I am going to ask the gentleman from Maryland, has he seen any open rules wandering around this Chamber anywhere?

Mr. HOYER. I have not seen any open rules, if the gentlewoman will yield, that really give open debate, and that is the issue. The gentlewoman mentions the 6 hours of debate or the hour and 45 minutes. The tragedy for the American public and for the House of Representatives is that of that hour and 45 minutes, 45 minutes to an hour may be taken up in simply voting, no debate, no consideration, no thoughtful exchange of ideas as to what is good and bad policy.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. The gentleman is absolutely correct. It is a very sad day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LIFE EXTENDING AND LIFE SAVING DRUG ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as was aptly described by Carl B. Feldbaum, president of the BioTech Industry Organization, "Life-saving new drugs do take too long to reach the people who need them."

From my district in Montgomery County, PA, I have heard many a compelling story from constituents with cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, epilepsy, or AIDS who speak of the difficulties in accessing the medicines they need because the approval process in our country is so prolonged and, in effect, they have to turn to other countries where the products are available.

Don't get me wrong. The Food and Drug Administration serves a valuable purpose in maintaining high safety and efficacy standards. However, it is important to note that the FDA's actions directly affect the lives of patients and the ability of physicians to provide state-of-the-art care for their patients.

In addition, the FDA regulates businesses that produce 25 percent of America's gross national product, so the Agency's actions also impact our country's economic well-being. The pharmaceutical industry is an excellent example. The United States leads the world in discovering new drugs yet, all too often, these drugs are available overseas first. The United States is far and away the world leader in biotechnology, but many biotechnology firms are moving clinical trials overseas because of red tape imposed on them by the FDA. These are very troubling trends that do not bode well for the economic future of the United States, or for the economic future of Pennsylvania.

In my 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania alone, we have 10 facilities of 4 major pharmaceutical companies. Together, these facilities employ more than 11,000 people. I would not want to see any of these constituents lose their jobs because FDA regulation is prompting companies to conduct some of their work overseas.

Americans want safe medicines. They want a strong FDA that will keep unsafe products off the market but, I believe, they want to see more emphasis on the value of giving patients quicker access to safe and effective new medicines. That is why, today, I am introducing the Life Extending and Life Saving Drug Act. We need to take action as soon as possible for the great benefit of this Nation's patients, physicians, and our emerging industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues to act quickly on this critical piece of legislation.

THE TIMBER AMENDMENT IN THE RESCISSIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. TAYLOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today the President of the United States vetoed the rescission

bill that had been worked on for many weeks in this Congress by the House and the Senate and then in conference, and in that rescission package were many things that I think are important to the Nation, but one thing that was very important for forest health was the timber salvage amendment. The salvage amendment called for increasing forest health by allowing and actually requiring the Forest Service to get rid of the large portion of the dead and dying and deceased timber in our national forests.

We have several problems in the national forests. First of all there have been billions of board feet, there are somewhere between 20 and 30 billion board feet that are dead and dying in the forest that need to be taken out. The dead trees in the West are accumulating so fast that forest fires are not only burning along the ground as they once did, they are now burning to high degrees because of the buildup of dead and dying timber that has already accumulated in the forests. They reach temperatures of over 2000 degrees. They bake the land, charcoal runs over in the streams, it makes it almost impossible to come back and reforest in those areas. Many thousands of acres have been blown down through wind damage. These are also hard to reforest, to return to forest health.

Insects and disease in our national forests are not only consuming parts of our national forests but they are moving over into private lands. Most silviculturalists recognize the only way to stop the insect-infested movements is to destroy the tree, take out the host tree, either burn it or use it if you can get to it early enough, remove it so that there is not the location for the insects to move on year after year.

We know all of this because we have over 100 years of silviculture at our disposal, both from our best universities that have taught forestry going back almost 100 years when the first school of forestry started in this country. We know it from numerous experimental stations that we have, both private, Federal, and State and at university centers. We know it because silviculture is a science that is taught and studied and is probably one of the best informed sciences that we have because we have been studying for over 100 years in this area now.

With all of this accumulated knowledge we allow special interest groups in Washington to take in hundreds of millions of dollars, scaring people with misinformation, bad science, and pandering to politicians. The President has bought their message, hook, line, and sinker, because according to a Wall Street Journal story about the polling of the environmental organizations in Washington, we find that over 93 percent voted for Mr. Clinton. They are primarily far left. The report also showed that they are contrary in most of the things they report to the actual science that we know in these areas.